

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01666 01 OF 02 192259Z

66

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 SCEM-02 EB-11

INT-08 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 RSR-01 COME-00

/101 W

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R 192200Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1365

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 OTTAWA 1666

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA, US

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ON OIL PIPELINE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT, BASED ON UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT OF
EXCHANGE DURING HOUSE OF COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD JULY
19 ON OIL PIPELINE:

BEGIN TEXT

MR. JOHN A. FRASER (CANCOUVER SOUTH): MR.
SPEAKER, I HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE RIGHT HON. PRIME
MINISTER. IN VIEW OF THE REVELATION YESTERDAY THAT
THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT MAKE THE CANADIAN POSITION ON THE ALASKA
ROUTE AND THE MACKENZIE ALTERNATIVE CLEAR
IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS PUT BY THE U.S. STATE
DEPARTMENT AND IN VIEW OF THE AMAZING DELAY IN
COMMUNICATING CORRECTIONS IN GOVERNMENT ANSWERS FROM
JUNE 27 TO JULY 16, CAN THE PRIME MINISTER EXPLAIN TO
THE HOUSE WHETHER THE ORIGINAL ANSWER WAS GOVERNMENT
POLICY AND IF THE CORRECTION CONCERNING CANADIAN
OWNERSHIP WAS THE RESULT OF A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT
POLICY AFTER JUNE 27, 1973?

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 01666 01 OF 02 192259Z

HON. DONALD S. MACDONALD (MINISTER OF ENERGY,

MINES AND RESOURCES): MR. SPEAKER, PERHAPS I MIGHT BE ALLOWED TO ANSWER. MAY I SAY SPECIFICALLY WITH REGARD TO THE LAST QUESTION, THE ANSWER IS NO. IT WAS NOT A RECENT CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT POLICY; IT WAS A POSITION THAT HAD BEEN DECIDED LAST SUMMER.

WITH REGARD TO THE DELAY IN TRANSMITTING THE CLARIFICATION, I SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THE CANADIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON COMMUNICATED THE EXACT TERMS OF THE CLARIFICATION TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON JULY 6 AND THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AT THAT TIME WAS IN FULL POSSESSION OF THE CLARIFICATION, INCLUDING BEING AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THERE WAS ONE ANSWER FOR THE GAS PIPELINE AND ANOTHER ANSWER FOR THE OIL PIPELINE.

MR. FRASER: MY SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION IS AGAIN TO THE PRIME MINISTER, ALTHOUGH HE MAY WISH TO REFER IT TO THE MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE TAPS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN A MATTER OF CONCERN BOTH FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND IN VIEW IF THE PRIME MINISTER'S REPEATED ASSURANCES THAT THE CANADIAN POSITION HAD BEEN CLEARLY AND FORCEFULLY PRESENTED THROUGHOUT TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, CAN THE PRIME MINISTER INFORM THE HOUSE WHY IT WAS NOT UNTIL JULY 16, 1973 THAT THE GOVERNMENT FINALLY PRESENTED TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THE FULL CANADIAN POSITION?

MR. MACDONALD (ROSEDALE): THAT IS NOT CORRECT. THE CANADIAN POSITION WAS COMMUNICATED TO THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES AS FAR BACK AS MAY 1972 TO SECRETARY MORTON. THE MOST RECENT STATMENT, AS I POINTED OUT TO THE HON. GENTLEMEN, WAS COMMUNICATED TO THEM ON JULY 6. IF THE STATE DEPARTMENT CHOSE NOT TO PASS ON THAT INFORMATION, I CANNOT BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THAT.

MR. FRASER: I MIGHT POINT OUT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS--

MR. SPEAKER: ORDER, PLEASE. PERHAPS THE HON.
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 OTTAWA 01666 01 OF 02 192259Z

MEMBER WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION.

MR. FRASER: AGAIN I DIRECT MY SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TO THE PRIME MINISTER WHO ONCE AGAIN MAY WISH TO DEFER TO THE MINISTER. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT ADVISE THE HOUSE OF THE U.S. INQUIRIES AND THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES AND IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH REPLIES

WAS ONLY RELEASED TO THE PRESS AFTER MY QUESTIONS OF JULY 6, CAN THE PRIME MINISTER NOW ADVISE THE HOUSE AS TO EXACTLY WHAT IMMEDIATE STEPS THE PRIME MINISTER IS PREPARED TO TAKE DIRECTLY WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO CORRECT THE DAMAGE DONE BY THIS INCREDIBLY INEPT PIECE OF NINETEENTH CENTURY QUILL PEN DIPLOMACY?

MR. MACDONALD (ROSEDALE): MR. SPEAKER, AS THE HON. GENTLEMEN SHOULD KNOW, THE ANSWERS GIVEN TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT WERE REPITITIONS OF ANSWERS GIVEN TO THEM AND TO OTHERS IN PUBLIC, AND INDEED SOME WERE DIRECT QUOTATIONS OF ANSWERS GIVEN IN THIS HOUSE. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE WAS NO NEW STATEMENT OF POLICY INVOLVED IN THAT.

HON. ROBERT L. STANFIELD (LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION): MR. SPEAKER, I WOULD LIKE TO DIRECT A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. WHY DID HE NOT COMMUNICATE THE CHANGE IN THE CANADIAN POSITION, ANNOUNCED ON JULY 6, IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE, AS WOULD BE THE USUAL WAY? IN OTHER WORDS WHY DID HE NOT, THROUGH HIS DEPARTMENT, COMMUNICATE FORMALLY WITH THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE RATHER THAN LEAVING IT FOR THE MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE U.S. AMBASSADOR ACCREDITED IN OTTAWA?

HON. MITCHELL SHARP (SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS): MR. SPEAKER, IT IS NOT UNUSUAL, IN RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES, FOR MY COLLEAGUES TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE UNITED STATES, OR IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES IN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 OTTAWA 01666 01 OF 02 192259Z

THEIR SPECIALIZED FIELDS, AND I THINK THE MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES DID THE USUAL THING IN HIS USUAL, EFFICIENT WAY.

MR. STANFIELD: DID NOT THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THROUGH HIS DEPARTMENT, MAKE A FORMAL RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE AS OF JUNE 27, I BELIEVE IT WAS? DIDN'T THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MAKE THAT COMMUNICATION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE?

MR. MACDONALD (ROSEDALE): MR. SPEAKER, PERHAPS I MIGHT RESPOND TO THAT BECAUSE THE AMERICAN EMBASSY DID NOT COMMUNICATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BUT COMMUNICATED DIRECTLY WITH MY DEPARTMENT. IT WAS FOR THAT REASON THAT MY DEPARTMENT RESPONDED

TO THIS, AND THE ACTUAL COMMUNICATION WAS MADE THROUGH THE CANADIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT, BUT OF COURSE COMMUNICATION WAS GOING ON AT THE SAME TIME WITH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY HERE IN OTTAWA AFTER WE RECEIVED THE INQUIRY.

MR. STANFIELD: IT IS CORRECT THEN TO DRAW THE CONCLUSION THAT THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS GOVERNMENT

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01666 02 OF 02 192332Z

62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 SCEM-02 EB-11 INT-08 COME-00

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O 192300Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1366

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 OTTAWA 1666

HAVE TAKEN THIS MATTER SO SERIOUSLY AND HAVE BEEN SO CONCERNED AS TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE CORRECT POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WAS COMMUNICATED BY LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO CANADA SOME FOUR DAYS AFTER IT WAS PUBLISHED IN CANADA AND, AS A RESULT OF THIS INEPT AND CARELESS PROCEEDING, THIS DID NOT GET TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS UNTIL JULY 16?

MR. SPEAKER: ORDER. I AM SURE THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION WILL APPRECIATE THAT A QUESTION ASKED IN THOSE TERMS IS NOT IN ORDER.

MR. RANDOLPH HARDING (KOOTENAY WEST): MR. SPEAKER, I WISH TO DIRECT A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. IN VIEW OF THE POTENTIALLY TREMENDOUS OIL HAZARD TO THE COAST

OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, AND IN PARTICULAR TO THAT PART
OF THE SEACOAST WHICH WOULD BE AFFECTED BY A MAJOR OIL
SPILL IN THE STRAIT OF JAUN DE FUCA, I WOULD ASK THE
MINISTER IF THE GOVERNMENT HAS HAD ACTIVE DISCUSSIONS
WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING
ALL ALASKAN OIL DELIVERED TO POINTS ON THE U.S. WEST
COAST SOUTH OF VANCOUVER ISLAND, WHERE THERE ARE FAR
FEWER NAVIGATIONAL HAZARDS THAN IN THE STRAIT OF JUAN
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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 01666 02 OF 02 192332Z

DE FUCA?

HON. MITHCELL SHARP (SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS); YES MR. SPEAKER. THAT IS EXACTLY
THE POINT WE HAVE MADE TO THE UNITED STATES ON MANY OCCA-
SIONS.

MR. MACDONALD (ROSEDALE): ON A QUESTION OF
PRIVILEGE WITH REGARD TO THE REMARKS OF THE LEADER
OF THE OPPOSITION, MR. SPEAKER. I THINK IT IS ONLY
FAIR FROM MY STANDPOINT TO INDICATE THAT THE STATE
DEPARTMENT HAD AGREED TO RELEASE THE INFORMATION ON
JULY 6, AND IT WAS ONLY ON JULY 19, WHEN WE FOUND THEY
HAD NOT RELEASED THE CLARIFICATION AND, AT THEIR
REQUEST, THAT WE SUBMITTED THE LETTER ON JULY 10.
IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WOULD RELEASE
THAT INFORMATION ON JULY 6 AND IT WAS ONLY WHEN WE
FOUND OUT THAT THEY DID NOT DO IT THAT WE SENT THEM
FURTHER CLARIFICATION.

MR. STANFIELD: ON A POINT OF ORDER, MR.
SPEAKER, ARISING OUT OF THE REMARKS MADE BY THE
MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES. I SHOULD
LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THE NORMAL WAY TO COMMUNICATE
ON A MATTER OF SUCH IMPORTANCE AS THIS-- IT IS AS
MUCH A POINT OF ORDER AS MY HON. FRIEND'S QUESTION
OF PRIVILEGE. I WILL BE VERY BRIEF AND TO THE POINT.
I JUST MAKE THE POINT THAT THE WHOLE PROCEDURE WAS
SLOPPY AND THERE WAS NO FOLLOW-THROUGH EVEN ASSUMING
THAT WHAT THE MINISTER SAYS IS CORRECT. THERE WAS NO
FOLLOW-THROUGH AT ALL.

MR. RANDOLPH HARDING (KOOTWNA WEST): MR.
SPEAKER, MY FURTHER SUPPLEMENTARY IS TO THE SECRETARY
OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. WHAT HAS BEEN THE
RESULTS OF THE TALKS FOR POSSIBLE OIL DELIVERIES TO
THE UNITED STATES THROUGH POSSIBLE OTHER UNITED STATES
WEST PORTS (SIC) OR TO THE CHERRY POINT REFINERY IN
WASHINGTON BY WAY OF AN EXISTING CANADIAN PIPELINE?

HON. MITCHELL SHARP (SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 01666 02 OF 02 192332Z

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS): MR. SPEAKER, AS MY COLLEAGUES,
THE MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES SAID
YESTERDAY AND AS MY COLLEAGUES, THE MINISTER OF
THE ENVIRONMENT HAS SAID IN MANY OCCAISONS, IT SEEMS TO
US ONLY TO MAKE SENSE THAT THE CHERRY POINT REFINERY
SHOULD BE SERVED FROM INTERIOR PORTS (SIC AND NOT FROM
SEA AND THAT WE WOULD MEET OUR MAIN PROBLEM.

MR. ALLAN B. MCKINNON (VICTORIA): MR. SPEAKER,
MY SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION IS TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. IN VIES OF THE ALMOST
UNBELIEVABLE POSITION THAT WE NOW FIND OURSELVES IN
THAT THE CANADIAN WEST COAST IS GOING TO GET A
TANKER ROUTE THAT ALL WEST COAST RESIDENTS ARE
OPPOSED TO APPARENTLY BECAUSE OUR AFFAIRS OF STATE ARE
NOW BEING CARRIED ON USING THE INFOCAN HANSARD
CLIPPING SERVICE--

MR. SPEAKER: ORDER PLEASE. I AM SURE THAT THE
HON. MEMBER APPRECIATES THAT A QUESTION CANNOT BE ASKED
IN THOSE TERMS AND THAT IT IS NOT CONDUCIVE TO THE
ORDERLY CONDUCT OF BUSINESS TO ASK QUESTIONS WHICH ARE
CLEARLY OUT OF ORDER.

MR. MCKINNON: MR. SPEAKER, I WILL TRY TO GET TO
THE QUESTION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS WHO MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS
COMMUNICATION MUDDLE. CAN HE EXPLAIN TO THE HOUSE IN
A STRAIGHTFORWARD WAY WHAT HE INTENDS TO DO TO
RETRIEVE THE SITUATION, IF IT CAN BE RETRIEVED?

HON. MITCHELL SHARP (SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS): MR. SPEAKER, I WANT TO MAKE IT
PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT THE POSITION OF THE CANADIAN
GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN KNOWN TO THE CONGRESS OF THE
UNITED STATES, THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THIS COUNTRY
AND THIS HOUSE, HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR MANY MONTHS AND
HAS NOT CHANGED.
END TEXT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM PIPELINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973OTTAWA01666
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730723/aaaaaqqr.tel
Line Count: 323
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Dec-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <31-Dec-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ON OIL PIPELINE
TAGS: ENRG, CA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005